

**CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR  
for the PARISH OF WITHERIDGE**

I, (name in full) .....

of (home address in full) .....

..... hereby consent to being  
co-opted for the above Parish.

I declare that I am qualified and that I will be qualified to be so co-opted by virtue of being on the day of co-option a Commonwealth citizen, a Citizen of the Republic of Ireland or a citizen of another Member State of the European Community, who has attained the age of 18 years and that

\*(a) I am registered as a local government elector for the above parish in respect of (qualifying address in full)

.....  
.....

and my electoral number is .....; **OR**

\*(b) I have during the whole of the twelve months preceding the date of my co-option occupied as owner or tenant the land or other premises in that Parish (description and address of land or premises)

.....  
.....; **OR**

\*(c) My principal or only place of work during those twelve months has been in that Parish at (give address of place of work and, if appropriate, name of employer)

.....  
.....; **OR**

\*(d) I have during the whole of those twelve months resided in that Parish or within three miles of it (give full address):

.....  
.....

I declare to the best of my knowledge and belief I am not disqualified from being elected by reason of any disqualification set out in Section 80 of the Local & Government Act 1972, a copy of which is included, and I do not hold a politically restricted post, within the meaning of Part I of the Local & Government and Housing Act 1989, under a local authority within the meaning of that Part.

Signed ..... Signed in the presence of:

Date ..... Signature of witness .....

Name & Address of Witness:

.....

(see notes over for more information on completing this form).

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## **CO-OPTION**

There are no rules regarding co-option of members. The Parish Council may choose who they like but the person must be qualified to have been a candidate (see extract below).

There are several methods of co-opting used by Councils but the most popular is one whereby the Council puts up a notice in various places, within the Parish, inviting anyone interested to write to the Parish Council Chairman, giving reasons why he or she would like to be co-opted onto the Council.

The Chairman then reports any letters to the Council, who then either co-opt direct or invite applicants to appear at the Council meeting for an interview.

Newly co-opted members are also required to complete a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

### Qualifications for Candidature

To be qualified to be elected a member of a parish council a person must be 18 years of age or over, and a British subject or citizen of the Republic of Ireland, and either:

- (i) be a local government elector of the parish, or
- (ii) have during the whole of the twelve months preceding the day on which he is nominated as a candidate occupied as owner or tenant any land or other premises in the parish; or
- (iii) his principal or only place of work in the twelve months preceding the day on which he is nominated as a candidate have been in the area of the parish; or
- (iv) have resided either in the parish or within 3 miles thereof during the whole of the 12 months proceeding the day on which he is nominated as a candidate.

There are certain disqualification's for election, of which the main (see 5. 80 of the Local Government Act 1972) are.. -

- (a) holding a paid office under the local authority;
- (b) bankruptcy;
- (c) having been sentenced to a term of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) of not less than three months, without the potion of a fine during the five years preceding the election; and
- (d) being disqualified under any enactment relating to corrupt or illegal practices.